

Wm. S. W. Wm. West regards

R E P O R T

OF THE

MANCHESTER

ROYAL LUNATIC HOSPITAL,

SITUATE IN THE

TOWNSHIP OF STOCKPORT ETHELLE

NEAR CHEADLE, CHESHIRE.

THIS INSTITUTION IS IN CONNEXION

WITH THE

MANCHESTER ROYAL INFIRMARY.

JUNE, 1851.



MANCHESTER :

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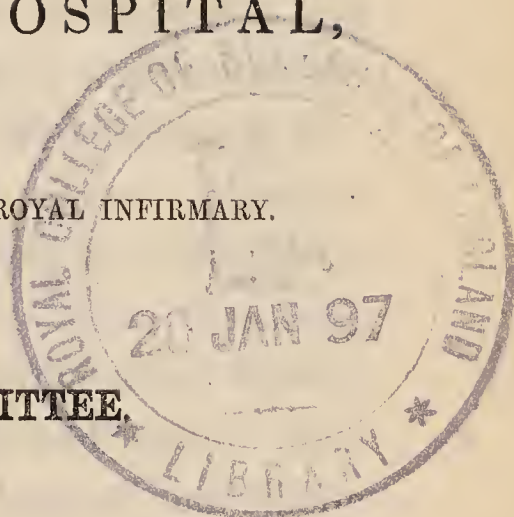
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ROYAL LUNATIC HOSPITAL,

CHEADLE, CHESHIRE,

IN CONNEXION WITH THE MANCHESTER ROYAL INFIRMARY.

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE.



THE Cheadle Lunatic Hospital has now been open for the reception of patients for a period of twenty-two months, and the Committee have much satisfaction in stating, that during that time, the results of the treatment adopted have been such as to justify their most favourable anticipations. The number of patients admitted since the opening of the Institution has been 76 ; of these, 21 have been discharged cured, 15 have been relieved, 7 have died, and 33 at present remain under treatment. Those who are interested in investigating the phenomena of this disease, and in examining into its various features as exhibited in individual cases, are referred to the very full and valuable tables contained in the annexed Report of the Medical Officers. From these it will appear that the per centage of deaths has been comparatively small ; that the physical condition of the patients generally has undergone considerable improvement ; and that where deaths have occurred they have been in many instances attributable to other causes than the unhappy malady which brought the patients under the care of this Asylum.

As this is the First Report issued by the Committee since the establishment of the Hospital in its present locality, they are anxious to direct attention thus prominently to the great principles upon which the Institution has been founded, as well as to some of the chief reasons which entitle it to a large measure of public support.

It is intended for the reception of patients from various classes of society, commencing from the highest class, at weekly rates of payment of £4. 4s. and £5. 5s., and having graduated scales of charges down to 15s. weekly, in proportion to the nature of the accommodation. One of its main objects, however, is to alleviate the sufferings of the middle and lower classes—of those who cannot afford the rates of payment required by the better class of private establishments, but whose circumstances are such as to render it undesirable to drive them to the disagreeable necessity of becoming inmates of the County Lunatic Hospitals. This is a large, and, we fear, an increasing class, and there is none towards which the sympathy of the humane and charitable can be more beneficially extended. The accommodation provided for the various patients is of a very superior kind, and while the principal sets of apartments are sufficient to meet the requirements of the most affluent, the comforts provided for the very humblest are such as, in the belief of the Committee, cannot be surpassed in any similar institution. An express provision has been made for cases of more than ordinary need by the establishment of a Benevolent Fund, out of which grants are made towards defraying the weekly expenses of patients whose circumstances call for special aid.

1. The first great recommendation of this Institution is its situation. In a rural district, enjoying perfect retirement, although within eight miles of the town of Man-

chester, in a healthy and open locality, commanding fine and extensive views of the surrounding country, it seems to possess all the chief qualifications necessary for its purposes. The grounds attached to the premises are extensive, and well laid out, and afford every facility for those out-door exercises and amusements which are so essential to the mental and bodily improvement of the patients.

2. A second advantage of this Institution is to be found in the experience and efficient management of its Resident Medical Superintendent, Mr. Dickson, ably assisted by his wife as matron, and by other members of his family who are resident in the Institution. To his care and attention the Committee bear their willing testimony. He devotes himself to the discharge of his arduous duties with great diligence and success, combining firmness with much kindness of manner, and always exhibiting the deepest interest in every case entrusted to his superintendence.

3. Another important advantage enjoyed by the Institution is its immediate and intimate connexion with the Manchester Royal Infirmary. The physicians of this last Institution are also physicians of the Lunatic Hospital, and two of their number are chosen annually as visiting physicians for the year. The patients have thus secured to them the constant services of two of the most eminent and experienced members of the medical profession to advise with and to assist the Resident Medical Superintendent.

4. While the management of the Institution is under the control of the Resident Medical Officer, he is responsible for the due discharge of his duties to a Board of Trustees, or Committee of Management, who meet weekly at Manchester, and a portion of whom (the House Stewards) periodically visit the Hospital at Cheadle. This arrange-

ment, without interfering with the quiet and retirement so essential in cases of insanity, is found to work very beneficially, and secures to the Institution the superintendence of a body of gentlemen, who have no pecuniary interest at stake, and whose only object is to see that its funds are administered with the greatest consideration for the comfort and well-being of those whom they are intended to relieve.

In confirmation of their own opinion, the Committee beg to call special attention to the accompanying Reports of Her Majesty's Commissioners in Lunacy, which were made on the occasion of their two last visits:—

MANCHESTER ROYAL LUNATIC HOSPITAL,
APRIL 9TH, 1851.

Since the last visit of the Commissioners, 12 patients have been admitted, 5 have been discharged—of whom 4 were recovered and 1 relieved. Within the same period 3 have died; the causes of death being serous apoplexy, phthisis, pulmonalis, and exhaustion, with gastric derangement respectively.

There are now 25 patients in the house, namely, 17 gentlemen and 8 ladies. We have to-day seen and conversed with the whole of them, and found them at the time of our visit orderly and tranquil. One of the gentlemen was restrained by means of a leathern belt and wrist strap. The patients were well and suitably clad, and several of them were occupied in the garden, and others in various in-door occupations. One gentleman is engaged in the construction of a turning lathe, which it is intended to employ in the construction of various articles of furniture for the rooms of the patients.

The various apartments occupied by the patients were remarkably clean and free from any offensive smell. Each

room is well and suitably furnished, and in nearly every part of the Establishment both the day and sleeping rooms have a cheerful and comfortable aspect.

We noticed the patients at dinner, and have reason to be well satisfied with the quality of the food as well as with the method of cooking and serving it.

We are glad to learn that a number of engravings are about to be hung on the walls of the galleries and day rooms, and that a supply of flowering plants will be provided in the course of the present spring. It is hoped that in a short time the major part of the land around the building will be brought into cultivation, and that an extended walk will be formed around the garden ground.

On the whole, we are satisfied with the accommodation and treatment of which the patients have the benefit in this Institution; and we consider its present condition creditable to those engaged in superintending it.

S. GASKELL, } Commissioners
J. W. MYLNE, } in Lunacy.

MANCHESTER ROYAL LUNATIC HOSPITAL
22ND OCTOBER, 1851.

This Hospital, at present, contains 41 patients, of whom 24 are males and 17 are females.

We have seen and spoken to all of them to-day, and found them remarkably tranquil and orderly in their demeanour. One gentleman, who is stated to be extremely dangerous and suicidal, wore a strait-waistcoat; but no other patient was under any kind of mechanical restraint or in seclusion.

The patients generally appear to be in good bodily health. Five of each sex are registered as being under medical treatment, but not for bodily illness of a serious

nature. We are glad to learn that a large proportion of the patients are persuaded to occupy themselves in various ways, and we found several gentlemen engaged in the garden, and assisting in cleaning the wards, &c.

Prayers are read regularly as usual, and several of the patients attend Divine Service at church on Sunday.

The whole of the wards were clean and in excellent order, and the condition of the Establishment, and the appearance of the patients, quite satisfactory. Since the last visit of the Commissioners in April, 23 patients have been admitted and 7 have been discharged. No death has occurred for eleven months past.

The recent certificates have been laid before us.

W. G. CAMPBELL,	} Commissioners
T. TURNER,		in Lunacy.

To this high testimony the Committee think it necessary to add nothing further in recommendation of the Institution: they earnestly invite the attention of all those who are personally interested in the judicious treatment of the insane, and of the members of the medical profession generally; and they feel confident that the result of such examination will satisfy them that the patients have every means employed to secure their comfort and alleviate their affliction, and that the mode of treatment adopted is eminently calculated to promote their gradual restoration to perfect health.

SALIS SCHWABE,
Treasurer.

REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICERS.

The Medical Officers have to report, that from the opening of the Manchester Royal Lunatic Hospital on the 10th of December, 1849, to the 24th of June, 1851, 65 patients have been admitted, 39 of whom have been males, and 26 females. Of these, 17 have been discharged cured, 19 have been removed at the desire of friends, 33 remain in the hospital, and 6 have died; total, 65.

The following table serves to show that nearly one-half of the total number of patients admitted have suffered under confirmed or incurable insanity, and that hence the above figures do not afford a correct view of the curative results.

TABLE 1.— <i>Confirmed cases Admitted.</i>			
Males	18		
Females	12		
	—	30	
Males (withdrawn by desire of friends) }	Relieved. {	..... 3	
Females, „ „ „ }		..... 4	
		—	7
Males (dead)	3		
Females „	2		
	—	5	
		—	12
Remain.....			18

Some of these patients had been residents in the hospital formerly attached to the Manchester Royal Infirmary; and many have been sent from other asylums. Some were of advanced age, and had long laboured under insanity, in

some instances for upwards of twenty years, and in two cases above thirty years. Although in this class there exists no hope of recovery, there has still been much amendment. Their physical condition has been greatly improved; the idle have been taught to exert themselves, the restless and excited to employ their energies in some useful way; and some of those who still bear upon their persons the marks of former ill-usage are now quiet, orderly, and industrious, and have attained a certain degree of self-respect and intelligence when compared with their former condition. The occupations in which they are engaged procure them sound sleep, increase their appetite, tend to improve their general health, and abate excitement.

The ages of those who died were respectively, 30, 55, 57, 67, and 74, and the periods during which they had been insane were 2, 5, 10, 12, and 37 years. *Post mortem* examinations were made, with the consent of the relatives, in three of these cases, and extensive organic lesions were found in the brain and some of the other organs of the body. No examination was made in two cases, the causes of death being pulmonary consumption and serous apoplexy of old age.

TABLE 2.—*Recent Cases Admitted.*

Males	21	
Females	14	
		—35
Died (female)	1	
	— 1	
Recovered (males)	11	
,, (females)	6	
	—17	
Withdrawn by friends relieved (males)	2	
	— 2	
	—	20
Remain.....		15

The above Table demonstrates the proportion of recoveries in the Recent Cases admitted to be 48.6 per cent.

The admission of patients during the early stage of the disease is here demonstrated to be a matter of paramount importance, and one which cannot be too forcibly impressed upon medical men, and the friends of those who are afflicted with insanity; and which, if early attended to, would diminish the evil, and the irreparable mischiefs that too frequently flow from mistaken notions of kindness and delicacy on the part of relatives, who detain in domestic seclusion their insane friends till too late, when a few weeks of rational treatment in an asylum might restore them to health. Relatives and friends are not aware that the inexperience and injudicious attentions of some, the cruelty and harshness of others, the personal restraint frequently adopted, and the innumerable difficulties inseparable from home treatment, aggravate and perpetuate a disease which, under the kind and consoling care of judicious officers and attendants in an asylum, might be speedily removed. Very frequently patients, the most violent when admitted, speedily become tranquil, cheerful, and confiding. The statistics of all lunatic asylums show that the greatest chances of recovery exist in early treatment, and are in exact ratio to the time the disease has existed before admission. It is a well-established fact, that from 70 to 80 per cent. of the patients who are placed under treatment within a few weeks after the first attack of insanity, speedily recover; every week of delay lessens the chance of cure, and lengthens the duration of the disease. A reference to table 4 will show that in 58.8 per cent. of those recovered, the disease had existed for a period less than three months before admission, while in those admitted where the disease had existed from three to six months, the recoveries amounted only to 23.9 per cent.

The too early removal of patients has, for the most part, precipitated a relapse. In some instances this

Early Treatment of those afflicted with Insanity.

Patients Withdrawn by their Relatives Uncured.

interference with the curative process has had its origin in the ill-judged affection of friends, who are impatient of delay, and sanguine that the effects of change, or the influence of personal kindness, may hasten a restoration to health. The re-admission of two cases, in an apparently hopeless and almost dying state, proves the impolicy of such removals.

TABLE 3.—*Showing the Ages of those Admitted.*

	MALES.	FEMALES.	TOTAL.
Under 10 years.....	1	0	1
From 10 to 20	1	1	2
From 20 to 30	6	4	10
From 30 to 40	7	11	18
From 40 to 50	11	2	13
From 50 to 60	7	4	11
From 60 to 80	6	4	10
	—	—	—
	39	26	65

This table shows that 32.2 per cent. of those admitted were above 50 years of age, while 15.3 per cent. were above 60 years of age.

TABLE 4.—*Duration of Disease before Admission in those Recovered.*

	MALES.	FEMALES.	TOTAL.
Under 1 month.....	2	3	5
From 1 to 3 months.....	3	2	5
From 3 to 6 months.....	4	0	4
From 6 to 12 months	1	0	1
From 12 to 24 months.....	1	1	2
	—	—	—
	11	6	17

TABLE 5.—*Forms of Disease in those Recovered.*

	MALES.		FEMALES.		TOTAL.
Mania.....	1	.....	2	.....	3
Puerperal mania	0	.....	3	.....	3
Mania a potu.....	2	.....	0	.....	2
Melancholia	2	.....	1	.....	3
Demonomania	1	.....	0	... ..	1
Monomania	4	.....	0	.....	4
Moral insanity	1	.....	0	.....	1
	—		—		—
	11		6		17

Several of the persons noted in the above table, were, at the time of their admission, labouring under acute diseases of the chest and stomach, in combination with insanity. The cases of puerperal mania have all been serious. The results of the treatment of this form of mania have been very satisfactory, three persons having been discharged cured, and the remaining one being convalescent.

The Insane Labour under Acute Diseases in other Important Organs of the Body.

TABLE 6.—*Showing the Ages of those Recovered.*

	MALES.		FEMALES.		TOTAL.
From 20 to 30	2	.....	2	.....	4
From 30 to 40	2	.....	3	.....	5
From 40 to 50	5	.....	1	.....	6
From 50 to 60	1	.....	0	.....	1
From 60 to 80	1	.....	0	.....	1
	—		—		—
	11		6		17

TABLE 7.—*Showing the length of Residence in the Hospital of those Recovered, Relieved, and Dead.*

	RECOVERED.			RELIEVED.			DEAD.		
	M.	F.	Totl	M.	F.	Totl	M.	F.	Totl
Under 3 days .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	1
From 3 to 14 days .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	2
From 1 to 3 months	3	3	6	2	3	5	...	..	...
From 3 to 6 months	5	2	7	2	1	3	...	1	1
From 6 to 9 months	3	1	4	1	0	1	2	...	2
	11	6	17	5	4	9	3	3	6

TABLE 8.—*Illustrative of Suicidal tendency in those Admitted.*

	MALES.	FEMALES.	TOTAL.
Mania.....	1	1	2
Chronic mania.....	0	1	1
Puerperal mania	0	3	3
Hysteric mania.....	0	1	1
Mania a potu.....	1	0	1
Melancholia	2	2	4
Monomania	1	1	2
	<hr/> 5	<hr/> 9	<hr/> 14

Notwithstanding the strong suicidal tendency manifested in these cases previous to admission, no casualty of this kind has happened in the Institution. Homicidal tendencies have also shown themselves in five males and one female.

TABLE 9.—*Causes of Disease in those Admitted.*

	MALES.	FEMALES.	TOTAL.
Anxiety	7	5	12
Terror	1	0	1
Grief	2	3	5
Disappointment	7	3	10
Religious excitement	1	3	4
Fast living and intemperance ...	5	2	7
Childbirth	0	4	4
Speculation	3	0	3
Over study and excitement.....	6	1	7
Unknown	7	5	12
	<hr/> 39	<hr/> 26	<hr/> 65

TABLE 10.—*Form of Disease in those Admitted.*

	MALES.	FEMALES.	TOTAL.
Mania	7	4	11
Chronic mania	7	7	14
Puerperal mania.....	0	4	4
Hysteric mania	0	1	1
Mania a potu	3	1	4
Melancholia... ..	7	2	9
Demonomania.....	2	0	2
Dementia.....	6	2	8
Monomania	5	4	9
Moral insanity.....	2	1	3
	39	26	65

The variety of the forms in which insanity has been presented for treatment, has been nearly as great as in the largest asylums, the only exceptions being idiocy, and the combinations of mania and dementia, with epilepsy and general palsy. This is not the place to enter into a history of these cases, but a reference to the case book would show several facts as interesting to the philanthropist as to the psychologist. In this case book will be found the history of one in whom the insanity has existed upwards of fourteen years; and that in the place he was first confined, he was for five years chained by the leg and arm to his bed every night; he is now one of the most orderly, industrious, and happiest of the inmates, is constantly occupied from morning till night, and fully appreciates the trust reposed in him in being allowed to attend the parish church every Sunday.

The influence which is exercised in associating in the same sitting-rooms, persons labouring under different delusions, and the benefit they mutually receive from the criticisms passed by each other on their delusions, was well exemplified in the case of a patient who, on admission,

Variety in
Forms of In-
sanity.

Delusions of
one Patient
Critised by
Another.

entertained such extraordinary delusions regarding his wife and family, as to excite the attention and ridicule of the other inmates. Within two days this patient began to doubt the correctness of his ideas, and, advantage being taken of these doubts, he was ere long discharged recovered. Another patient, who at the time of his admission thought that the extravagancies which he committed were by the direct command of God, was in a few months so far restored as himself to laugh at the delusions under which he had laboured. For the first three months, his desire to escape and wander about the country was so intense that the greatest vigilance was necessary; upon the occasion of the "New Year's Day Party," the patient named above wrote an article or criticism upon it for one of the periodicals, from which the concluding paragraphs are quoted as indicative of the intellectual powers of a patient approaching convalescence.

Literary Compositions.

"We have occupied a rather considerable portion of our journal with this account of, we believe, the first celebration of New Year's Day in this asylum;* and it is hardly necessary to observe that the inmates of such an institution are, many of them, quite as susceptible of a proper enjoyment of such scenes as we have just described, as the sanest and gravest of our readers could possibly be. Indeed, from what we have heard of the effects of such re-unions, we are inclined to think that a recurrence of similar entertainments, at properly regulated intervals, would be attended with beneficial results to those patients in particular who are the subjects of monomania,—a very different affection from a general prostration of the intellect, an affection which cannot possibly be understood thoroughly by any but those who have been under its influence, and who have recovered from its effects. We strongly recommend to those who have relations or friends requiring confinement, that they inquire strictly into the nature and management of this institution, and they will, we know, find it generally superior, in some respect or other, to any other establishment founded for the same benevolent objects in this country. One circumstance in particular is worthy of notice; no unnecessary restraint is imposed on the inmates, consequently a friendly feeling exists between the attendants and their respective charges. When any of the

* This patient has since been discharged cured.

mates exhibit a reasonable aptitude in any light employment, "the desire to be usefully employed, if expressed, is generally gratified when within the means of the establishment. The governor, who, of course, is the medical officer also, daily associates with all the patients; and, by so doing, becomes familiar with the peculiarities of their respective cases; he attends punctiliously to all their reasonable requirements and complaints, and treats them invariably, if not as quite sane, at least as curable members of society."

Whilst there cannot exist a doubt that, in the manage- Moral Treat-
ment. ment of the insane, much success depends upon medical treatment, there still exists another and scarcely inferior element of success, viz., the moral treatment. To correct the wayward fancies of the enthusiast and imaginative, to soothe and modify the feelings and passions of the excited, and to cheer and encourage the melancholic or desponding, becomes the daily and almost hourly duty of those in charge of the insane. This is to be accomplished by the aid of judicious moral control, under which all the patients, as far as is practicable, are brought. Some of them have resisted for months all control and authority, and set defiance to the laws and discipline of the establishment, but have at length been subdued by persevering kindness and firmness, conjoined with constant employment. A library, periodicals, newspapers, chess, bagatelle, music, drawing, and painting materials, &c. &c. are provided for in-door amusements and occupations—all of which have been found to be useful auxiliaries in dissipating delusions, repressing excitement, and substituting cheerfulness for habitual melancholy. With a similar attention, excursions have from time to time been made into the neighbouring villages and country, with the most gratifying results.

Out-door occupations and gardening have not a little tended to facilitate the cure or relief of many patients; and whilst the application of this principle to persons in the middle and upper ranks of life is somewhat novel,

its success has been most satisfactory. Musical and dancing *re-unions*, at fortnightly intervals, have been arranged, at which all, whose state will permit, participate. The best evidence of its salutary effects is, that sound and refreshing sleep for the most part follows the enjoyment.

(Signed),

R. F. AINSWORTH, M.D.

THOMAS DICKSON, L.R.C.S. Edin.

F. RENAUD, M.D.

Resident Medical Superintendent.

Visiting Physicians for the
year 1850-51.